

Ozone Control Strategy - Technical Terms

Air Quality Management District (AQMD) – Local agency charged with controlling air pollution and attaining health-based air quality standards. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is the regional AQMD that includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties and the southern portions of Solano and Sonoma Counties.

Air Quality Standard – A measureable amount of air pollution that is determined to protect public health. The federal and state governments both develop and adopt air quality standards.

Air Resources Board (ARB) – The State of California agency responsible for air pollution control. Responsibilities include: establishing State ambient air quality standards; setting allowable emission levels for motor vehicles, fuels and consumer products in California; and oversight of local air quality management districts.

Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) – Nine-county San Francisco Bay Area regional planning agency that works to solve problems in areas such as land use, housing, environmental quality, and economic development. ABAG is one of the cooperating agencies in the ozone planning process.

Community Air Risk Reduction (CARE) Program – A new Air District program designed to study the health risk associated with toxic air pollutants in the Bay Area. The program will look at all toxic air pollutants with an emphasis on diesel exhaust, which is thought to be the major source of airborne health risk in California. When completed, the CARE Program will be a tool the Air District can use to reduce toxic air pollution in areas with the highest health risk.

Control Measure – A regulation, policy, or program that is intended to reduce emissions of air pollutants.

Control Strategy – A comprehensive group of control measures to achieve the appropriate air quality standard. A control strategy usually includes stationary source measures, mobile source measures and transportation control measures.

Criteria Air Pollutants – Air pollutants for which the federal or State government has established ambient air quality standards, or criteria, for outdoor concentration in order to protect public health. Criteria pollutants include: ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, fine particulate matter, nitrogen oxide, and lead.

Emissions Inventory – A calculation of the amount of air pollutants emitted into an area's atmosphere, in amounts (pounds or tons) per day or year, by type of source.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – The federal agency responsible for control of air and water pollution, toxic substances, solid waste, and cleanup of contaminated sites. EPA regulates pollution from cars and trucks, aircraft, trains, ships, farm and construction equipment, and fuels.

Exceedance – A measured concentration of any air contaminant higher than national or state ambient air quality standards.

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) - The transportation planning, coordinating and financing agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. MTC is one of the cooperating agencies in the ozone planning process. MTC develops and helps implement transportation control measures.

Mobile Source – Any vehicle that produces air pollution, such as cars, trucks and motorcycles (on-road mobile sources) or airplanes, boats, trains and construction equipment (off-road mobile sources).

Mobile Source Measure - A regulation, policy, or program that is intended to reduce emissions of air pollutants from vehicle engines.

Modeling – A scientific process of understanding how air pollution is formed that takes into account meteorology and emissions in order to determine how much pollution needs to be reduced in order to meet federal and state ambient air quality standards.

Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) – Gases formed from elements in the atmosphere, mainly when combustion takes place under high temperature and high pressure conditions. NO_x and reactive organic gases combine to form ozone.

Non-Attainment Area – A geographic area, designated by the EPA or ARB, that does not meet one or more of the ambient air quality standards for a criteria air pollutant.

Ozone (O₃) – An odorless, colorless, highly reactive gas. A product of complex chemical reactions between nitrogen oxides and organic gases, in the presence of sunlight. Lower atmospheric ozone is a criteria air pollutant that is harmful to human health. In the upper stratosphere (10-20 miles above earth), ozone helps shield the earth from ultraviolet radiation.

Particulate Matter (PM) - Particulate matter pollution consists of very small liquid and solid particles floating in the air. Of greatest concern to public health are the particles that are small enough to be inhaled into the deepest parts of the lung. PM from diesel engines is especially harmful.

Reactive Organic Gases (ROG) – Organic compounds that react with nitrogen oxides in the atmosphere to form ozone. Some main sources of ROG include fuels, motor vehicles, and solvents. ROG and nitrogen oxides combine to form ozone.

Rule Development – The development of regulations to limit emissions from specific types of industry to improve air quality and protect public health.

Stationary Source – A fixed, non-mobile source of air pollution, usually at industrial or commercial facilities. Examples include: refineries, incinerators, auto body shops, and dry cleaners.

Toxic Air Contaminants (TAC) - Substances identified in state regulations by the California Air Resource Board Air to potentially cause or contribute to an increase in cancer or serious illness, such as respiratory disease.

Transportation Control Measure (TCM) – Measures to reduce congestion and decrease air pollutant emissions from motor vehicles by reducing vehicle use. Examples include: encouraging more public transit, carpooling, biking and walking.